

## Message Text

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TAGS: OAS

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MCGEE AT COMMITTEE I,  
JUNE 28, 1978

USDEL 19

REF: STATE 165181

MR. CHAIRMAN:

MY GOVERNMENT IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE MULTILATERALIZA-  
TION OF THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN  
HEMISPHERE BY MEANS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION (IAHRC).

THE COMMISSION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
SYSTEM; ITS ROLE HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO THE DEFENSE AND  
ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR HEMISPHERE.

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LAST YEAR THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTED TO STRENGTHEN THE  
COMMISSION BY GRANTING IT THE RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL  
NEEDED TO COPE WITH ITS MOUNTING OBLIGATIONS; THAT  
DECISION HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND MY DELEGATION BELIEVES  
THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT SHOULD BE MAINTAINED  
TO ASSURE THE COMMISSION'S AUTONOMY AND THE CONTINUITY  
OF ITS EXCELLENT WORK.

WE LISTENED YESTERDAY TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S CHAIRMAN, DR. ANDRES AGUILAR, AND TO THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

MY DELEGATION FULLY SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT AND WE CONGRATULATE THE COMMISSION ON ITS BALANCED, CAREFUL AND SCHOLARLY ANALYSIS.

DEBATE YESTERDAY CENTERED ON TWO COUNTRIES DISCUSSED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT, NICARAGUA AND CHILE.

AS MY GOVERNMENT HAS STATED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA. BUT WE SEE THE SOLUTION TO CURRENT POLITICAL UNREST THERE AS A MATTER THAT MUST BE RESOLVED INTERNALLY AND PEACEFULLY BY ALL POLITICAL SECTORS.

WE WELCOME THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA'S DECISION TO INVITE THE IAHRC TO MAKE AN ON-SITE VISIT TO NICARAGUA.

WE HOPE THAT THIS VISIT, AND THE SUBSEQUENT REPORT THE COMMISSION WILL PREPARE, CAN IDENTIFY STEPS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD A MORE OPEN, DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

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MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE VISIT OF THE IAHRC SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE WAS THE SUBJECT OF THREE SPECIAL REPORTS IN 1975, 1976, AND 1977; A LENGTHY SECTION IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT, AS CHAIRMAN AGUILAR POINTED OUT YESTERDAY, TAKES NOTE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILE BUT CITES MANY OUTSTANDING CASES THAT ARE NOT YET RESOLVED, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO DISAPPEARANCES THAT HAVE YET TO BE EXPLAINED.

THESE CASES SHOULD BE REVIEWED CAREFULLY AND A RESOLUTION SHOULD REQUEST THAT THE IAHRC CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION IN CHILE.

THEREFORE, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE, WE HAVE NOTED CAREFULLY THE POSITIVE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN, AND WE HOPE TO SEE FURTHER ACTION TO ACHIEVE OPEN DEMOCRATIC INSTRUCTIONS.

FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN MY DELEGATION'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER OF COSTA RICA, AIMED AT ASSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR THE IAHRU UPON THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PACT OF SAN JOSE.

MY GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT IN OUR HEMISPHERE, PROGRESS TOWARD HIGHER STANDARDS OF JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT ALL OUR COUNTRIES COOPERATE TO MAKE THE IAHRU AN INDEPENDENT, AUTONOMOUS, EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED ARBITER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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